



**IGCSE business
qualifications**

delivered locally, recognised globally

IGCSE

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About Edexcel

Edexcel, a Pearson company, is the UK's largest awarding body offering academic and vocational qualifications across 112 countries including the IGCSE, GCSE and O Levels, AS and A Levels, and the BTEC suite of vocational qualifications from entry level to the BTEC Higher National Diploma.

Further copies of this publication are available from Edexcel publications:
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Why choose London Examinations IGCSE business qualifications?

In a competitive global market, it is important for students to understand the changing world of business. Edexcel's range of business IGCSEs are the most up to date qualifications available and have been developed to suit students of all abilities.



Choosing the right subject for your students?

IGCSE Business Studies

This qualification is a relatively new subject, popular in the UK as a GCSE subject. It takes a more detailed and practical view of the business world in comparison to Economics or Commerce. It examines the external environment of a business, business behaviour, business structure and organisation, and people in business.

IGCSE Economics

IGCSE Economics is a theoretical study of such topics as markets, and the law of supply and demand. It focuses on underlying principles and theories, rather than the day to day practicalities of running a business.

IGCSE Commerce

This qualification is a less theoretical subject, covering commercial activities such as trade and the aids to trade, including transport, insurance and banking. It is more concerned with the 'how' rather than the 'why' of economic activity. It would particularly benefit those who seek employment in occupations such as banking, finance or insurance.

IGCSE Accounting

IGCSE Accounting is the study of financial information for the purpose of assisting the effective day to day running and future development of organisations. The qualification can be used as the basis for further study of accounting, and provides progression to professional accounting qualifications such as ACCA, CIMA or CIFPA. There is an additional optional module in **Computerised Accounting** for students who would like their expertise accredited in this essential skill.

Recognition and progression

Our IGCSEs are recognised as equivalent, grade for grade, to a UK GCSE and have the same status in terms of university entry requirements. IGCSE senior examiners have experience in both IGCSE and GCSE qualifications, ensuring that standards are consistent.

On successful completion of these qualifications, students can choose to further their studies by taking the GCE AS and A levels in Business Studies, Economics, Accounting or other equivalent qualifications.

IGCSE business qualifications

Content for all abilities

The range of IGCSE business qualifications have been designed to keep subject content manageable and clearly defined for students. Specifications describe the depth and detail required, avoiding excessive topic coverage. Although there is some overlap in subject content, each of the qualifications has a distinct focus. Therefore, students are free to take as many of these subjects as they wish in any exam session. There are no forbidden combinations.

Choice of assessment

IGCSE Business Studies, Economics and Commerce are assessed in the same way as a UK GCSE, with a Foundation tier (grades C to G) or Higher tier (grades A* to D), available to suit students of different abilities.

For each qualification, students have the option of taking one of the following assessment routes:

(i) Coursework option

Coursework is based on case studies. In Commerce and Business Studies, students apply their subject knowledge to a scenario provided by Edexcel. In Economics, students choose their own coursework topics after discussion with their teachers. Full guidance on the setting and assessing of coursework is available on the Edexcel website.

(ii) Exam alternative to coursework

If students do not want to take the coursework option they have the choice to take a written exam instead. The exam for both Economics and Commerce is based on a case study which is pre-released to students six weeks before the exam. Students study the data with their teachers, and use their subject knowledge in the exam to address issues arising from the case study. For Business Studies, the exam is based on a series of short answer questions drawn from all areas of the syllabus.

IGCSE Accounting is a single tiered subject and all students take one exam.

Extra study option – the Computerised Accounting module

In collaboration with Sage UK Limited, Edexcel has developed a Computerised Accounting module to supplement the IGCSE Accounting qualification. This innovative course is only available to IGCSE Accounting students, who will benefit from learning how to use accounting software, as this skill will be highly valued by potential employers.

This module reflects the changing nature of accounting, where most work is now carried out using standard accounting software. The software will be provided by Edexcel to educational institutions, at a discounted price.

For the exam, students will work on-screen to address accounting problems based on a case study. The resulting printouts are sent to Edexcel for assessment. Provided that students achieve at least a grade G in IGCSE Accounting, their certificate will be endorsed with the words "With Computerised Accounting", and graded Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Designed to improve student achievement

Our IGCSE papers are carefully designed to enable students to achieve more. Careful attention is given to the level of language used, the visual layout of the papers and style of question. Students work through a well-presented question and answer booklet. A series of structured questions, stepped in difficulty, allows students to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do.

Supporting you

Teaching resources

The following teaching resources are available:

- Exemplar exam papers and mark schemes
- Teacher's guides
- Course textbooks from Longman, which have been written specifically to support Business, Economics and Commerce. These will be available from February 2006, for further information, please visit www.longman.co.uk
- IGCSE Accounting CD-ROM, which provides all the support materials you need to successfully teach the syllabus. The CD ROM includes special support materials such as lesson plans, practice material and tests.

Training courses

A programme of face-to-face training courses is run annually to give guidance on how to teach IGCSE qualifications effectively. There is also an online training service 'INSET through the internet' available to those who prefer to do their training online.

Advice from subject experts

We offer a consultancy service for all our IGCSE business qualifications. Senior examiners will answer queries from teachers, and advise on marking standards.

Website

For more details about our teacher resources, training and support, visit our website www.edexcel.org.uk/international

Interested?

To find out more about our IGCSEs and to view our specifications online, visit our website www.edexcel.org.uk/igcse

Edexcel also has an extensive network of regional offices to help you become an Edexcel centre. If you would like to find your nearest regional office, please contact customer services on **+44 1 908 847750**.